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MAYOR LOW'S MISTAKE

NO NEGRO MEMBER ON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Samuel R. Scottron Guest of Honor at Banquet—A Ringing Defense of the Race's Interests—Why Recognition is Needed and Desired.

The name of Samuel R. Scottron is the one oftenest heard upon the lips of every colored man and woman within the confines of Greater New York since the night of April 18. Words of praise come likewise from many of those of the white race, who believe that justice to a proscribed race can best be assured when it has a tried and trusty comrade on guard, and that "taxation without representation is tyranny."

Why?

On the evening mentioned, Mr. Scottron was the guest of honor at a complimentary dinner tendered him by the teachers of the public schools of Brooklyn, in recognition of his faithful services as member of the Board of Education, from which post he has recently retired—because Mayor Low did not deem the presence of a Negro upon the Board necessary to the welfare of colored children. As will be noted later, Mr. Scottron is the third Afro-American to hold this highly important office, having been preceded by Dr. Philip A. White (now deceased), and T. McCants Stewart, who is winning laurels at the bar in Hawaii. Mr. Scottron served through the storms and trials of eight years, during a period when school questions, in their relation to color, were painfully acute, and his repeated victories over the forces of prejudice, have endeared him to all the people of Gotham's boroughs, particularly in the Borough of Brooklyn.

The dinner took place at the Prospect Hotel, 205 DeKalb avenue, Brooklyn, and it was Mr. Scottron's bold and unequivocal stand for racial recognition, in response to Dr. W. L. Buckley's address of welcome, that caused the sensation that has set everybody to talking. His speech, which follows below, is a scathing arraignment of Mayor Low for ignoring the Negro in his appointments upon the Board of Education, and is a truthful reflection of the unhappy frame of mind in which the colored citizens of New York now find themselves. The effect will probably not stop at the border of the Empire State. Mr. Scottron's heroic and earnest appeal for fair play may arouse in equal force the colored citizens elsewhere, and reach, for our betterment, the ears of appointing powers in every section of the land.

Mr. Scottron spoke as follows:

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Mr. Chairman—I believe I should err greatly were I to regard this magnificent assembly as altogether personal and individually complimentary. When a great work has been accomplished in State or city, or any of the departments

MEN OF THE HOUR.



REV. WILLIAM P. CIBBONS, Ph. D.

For Ten Years Pastor of Mt Carmel Baptist Church, Washington, D. C.—An Able Advocate of Religious Progress and Practical Education.

thereof, it is usual to select some official to receive the honors and plaudits of the people. But that official should not be unmindful that the people are cognizant of the fact that he was not alone and unaided in his work; and in the present instance that the way had been prepared for his success.

In to-night's gathering then, I am sure I recognize the desire of the people to express to the world their satisfaction with the educational work entrusted to the hands of their personal representatives in the Board of Education, for the past twenty years. Beginning with that very able gentleman, the late Dr. Philip A. White, who "died in the harness," the complimentary expression so often used—succeeded by that peerless orator and ever alert leader, T. McCants Stewart, and I may be allowed to express my pride in what seems evident by your flattering words and presence, to regard myself now entitled to be considered as their worthy successor.

The unsparing hand of time cut short the career of the first-named, ere the people, who so dearly loved him, could find opportunity to pay him tribute during his life, and we were obliged to place tokens of love upon his bier, and to record in loving lines words of tenderness and affection. He had been faithful and

efficient in all things. A new era had been inaugurated by him; the color line in the public schools had been broken when he passed to his account beyond. To his successors were left the task of completing the work by him begun. That it carried us along and over rugged and rocky paths at times, involving heartburnings and charges of unfaithfulness, is too well known to most of us to be now more than referred to. The born disposition of my immediate predecessor to brook no opposition to his rule, and, our differences of opinion after I came upon the scene, upon public school questions, brought on stormy times and scenes, covering several years of our official lives, and at the close of our last differences upon public school questions, he left these parts only to become an honored member of another constituency. I am sure that this body of intelligent citizens would gladly pay tribute to his ability were they permitted. Permit me then to receive for myself and for my predecessors as well, the highest tribute of this assembly.

Of all the departments of an American City, the Board of Education stands first and highest in the minds of the people. It is that body in a city's government whose acts, whose personnel,

DO WE TALK TOO MUCH?

NO HARM IN DISCUSSION CONDUCTED ON RIGHT LINES.

Negro Writers and Their Value, as Seen by Mrs Fannie Barrier Williams—Taking The Public Into Our Confidence Books that Sell.

The Negro seems to be very much in evidence these days, in the daily press and other publications. He is proving to be an interesting subject to the novelist, to the sociologist, to the political economist, to the essayist and all sorts of contributors to the literature of the day.

What is of special interest is that colored men and women are themselves conspicuous in this school of writers on the rights and wrongs, the hopes and despairs of the race. The reading public for the first time in the history of the country is not only reading what is being thought of the Negro, but what the Negro is thinking of himself. To an extent the Negro has been taking the American people into his confidence. With more or less success, he has begun to take care of his own interests whenever and wherever these interests affect public opinion.

Every wrong act, every false statement and every degrading opinion expressed is now challenged by a race that a few years ago was dumb and defenceless. A group of writers has been developed in the last few years, who by their learning and cleverness have deserved and won a hearing in the best of current publications. Whatever is written by such writers as Chestnut, Dunbar, DuBois, Washington, Durham, Kelly Miller, the Grimke brothers, Fortune, or Moore, find ready acceptance, because they have learned the art of interesting the reading public.

Notwithstanding all this there has been some complaint from our own race that we are too much in the public press. Of course these critics claim that they do not refer to the utterances of the writers just named, but to the ever-increasing number of would-be editors and writers who now and then break into the public press with their small opinions and inconsequential alarms. Such scribblers are certainly annoying and are justly chargeable with "talking too much" for publication. If some of our colored journals were less indulgent, these unsolicited writers would never be known or heard of; but these annoyances are a part of the penalties which are included in the blessings of "free speech" and a "free press."

There may be some consolation in the fact that if some of the foolish, impertinent and trite things written by colored people tend to misrepresent us and confuse the many-sided issues of our rights and privileges, they are scarcely worse than much of the stuff written against us by white men and women in books and

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